

FIG. 1

200

RECEIVE A NETWORK TOPOLOGY DEFINITION DEFINING AT LEAST ONE HIERARCHICAL INTERCONNECTION OF NETWORK GROUPS, EACH NETWORK GROUP COMPRISING AT LEAST ONE CONTENT ENGINE

201

RECEIVE A CHANNEL DEFINITION COMPRISING A SELECTION OF A PLURALITY OF CONTENT ENGINES (I.E., SELECTED CONTENT ENGINES) THAT ARE TO DISTRIBUTE CONTENT WITHIN THE CONTENT DISTRIBUTION NETWORK, THE PLURALITY OF CONTENT ENGINES IN THE CHANNEL DEFINITION SELECTED FROM CONTENT ENGINES WITHIN THE NETWORK GROUPS DEFINED WITHIN THE NETWORK TOPOLOGY DEFINITION

202

DETERMINE AN ASSIGNMENT OF AT LEAST ONE ROOT CONTENT ENGINE WITHIN THE CHANNEL DEFINITION

203

APPLY A CONTENT DISTRIBUTION PATH DETERMINATION TECHNIQUE TO THE NETWORK TOPOLOGY DEFINITION IN RELATION TO THE CHANNEL DEFINITION TO DETERMINE A SET OF CONTENT DISTRIBUTION PATHS IN THE CONTENT DISTRIBUTION NETWORK TO BE USED FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CONTENT FROM THE AT LEAST ONE ROOT ENGINE TO THE PLURALITY OF CONTENT ENGINES (I.E., THE SELECTED CONTENT ENGINES) DEFINED IN THE CHANNEL DEFINITION

204

(OPTIONAL STEP - PERFORMED IF METHOD DONE IN CENTRAL LOCATION)
DISSEMINATE THE SET OF CONTENT DISTRIBUTION PATHS TO THE PLURALITY OF
CONTENT ENGINES DEFINED IN THE CHANNEL DEFINITION SUCH THAT EACH
CONTENT ENGINE IN THE PLURALITY OF CONTENT ENGINES CAN OBTAIN A
DISTRIBUTION PATH TO USE TO DISSEMINATE CONTENT WITHIN THE CONTENT
DISTRIBUTION NETWORK FROM THE AT LEAST ONE ROOT CONTENT ENGINE

205

RECEIVE, AT THE AT LEAST ONE ROOT CONTENT ENGINE, CONTENT TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE PLURALITY OF CONTENT ENGINES DEFINED IN THE CHANNEL DEFINITION

206

DISTRIBUTE, FROM THE AT LEAST ONE ROOT CONTENT ENGINE, THE CONTENT TO NETWORK GROUPS CONTAINING CONTENT ENGINES DEFINED IN THE CHANNEL DEFINITION USING (I.E., ACCORDING TO) THE SET OF CONTENT DISTRIBUTION PATHS DETERMINED FROM THE STEP OF APPLYING A CONTENT DISTRIBUTION PATH DETERMINATION TECHNIQUE

## 400 RECEIVING A NETWORK TOPOLOGY DEFINITION

401

OBTAIN IDENTITIES OF A SET OF CONTENT ENGINES THAT DEFINE A NETWORK GROUP, EACH IDENTIFIED CONTENT ENGINE BEING ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER IDENTIFIED CONTENT ENGINES IN THE NETWORK GROUP

402

FOR EACH NETWORK GROUP THAT IS NOT A TOP LEVEL NETWORK GROUP IN THE HIERARCHICAL INTERCONNECTION OF NETWORK GROUPS

403

OBTAIN AT LEAST ONE (E.G., ONLY ONE) LINK DEFINITION BETWEEN THAT NETWORK GROUP AND AT LEAST ONE (E.G., ONLY ONE) PARENT NETWORK GROUP, THE AT LEAST ONE LINK DEFINITION IDENTIFYING AN INTERCONNECTION OF A CONTENT ENGINE IN THAT NETWORK GROUP AND A CONTENT ENGINE IN THE AT LEAST ONE PARENT GROUP

404

RECEIVE A CHANNEL DEFINITION COMPRISING A SELECTION OF A PLURALITY OF CONTENT ENGINES THAT ARE TO DISTRIBUTE CONTENT WITHIN THE CONTENT DISTRIBUTION NETWORK, THE PLURALITY OF CONTENT ENGINES IN THE CHANNEL DEFINITION SELECTED FROM CONTENT ENGINES WITHIN THE NETWORK GROUPS DEFINED WITHIN THE NETWORK TOPOLOGY DEFINITION

405

DETERMINE AN ASSIGNMENT OF AT LEAST ONE ROOT CONTENT ENGINE WITHIN THE CHANNEL DEFINITION

406

DESIGNATE, AS THE AT LEAST ONE ROOT CONTENT ENGINE, AT LEAST ONE CONTENT ENGINE WITHIN THE CHANNEL DEFINITION THAT EXISTS IN A NETWORK GROUP THAT IS HIGHEST IN THE AT LEAST ONE HIERARCHICAL INTERCONNECTION OF NETWORK GROUPS

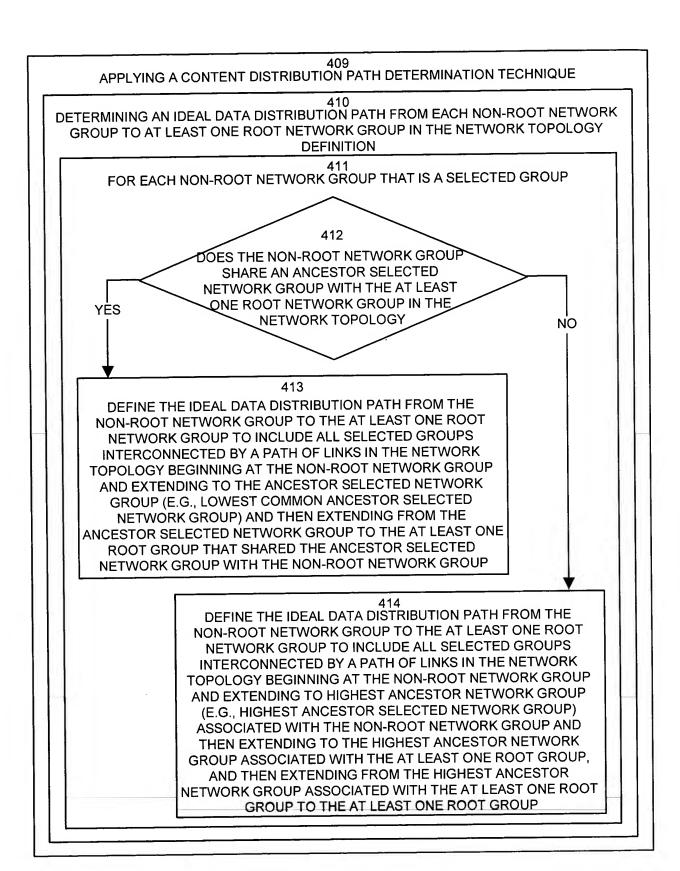
407

SELECT ROOT BASED ON A PERFORMANCE METRIC ASSOCIATED WITH THE AT LEAST ONE CONTENT ENGINE

AND/OR

408

SELECT ROOT BASED ON A BANDWIDTH METRIC ASSOCIATED WITH THE NETWORK GROUP THAT CONTAINS THE AT LEAST ONE CONTENT ENGINE



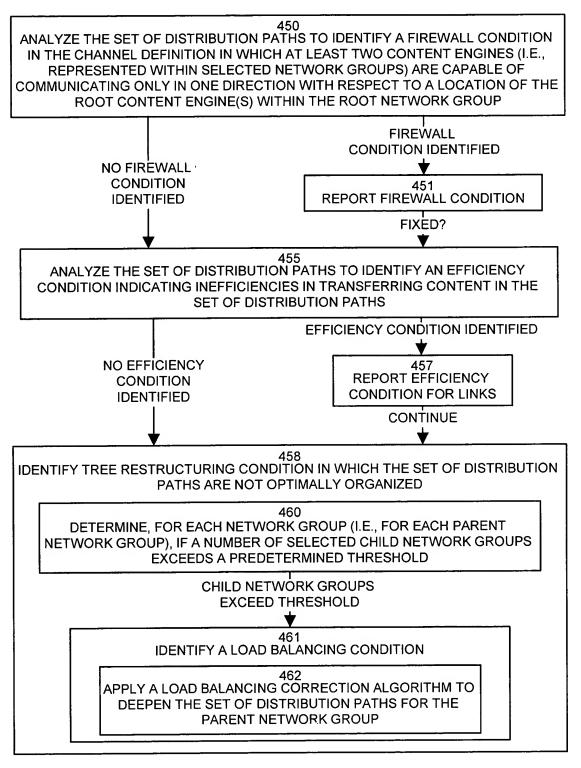


FIG. 5

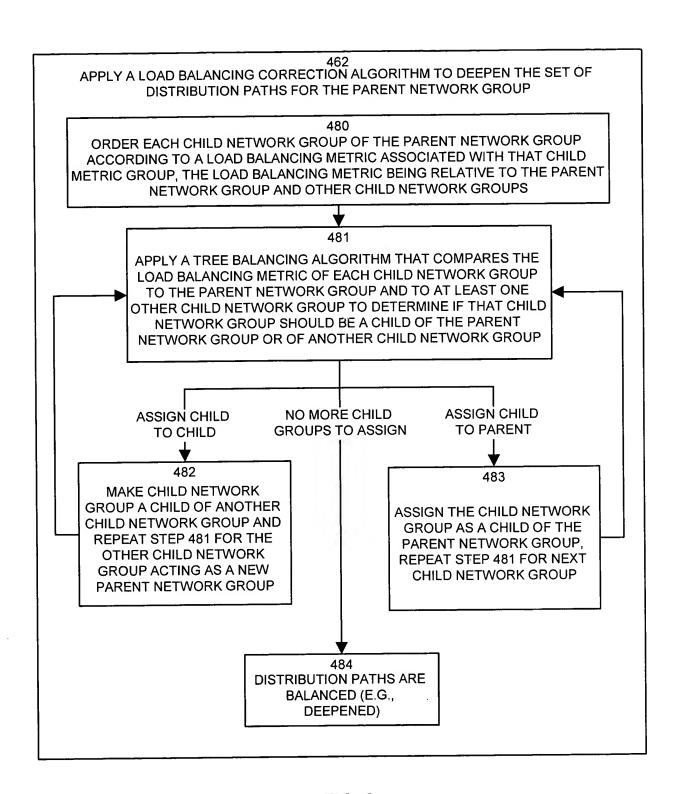


FIG. 6